(b) the annual rate of growth in the capital investment in this sector during this period; and

(c) the annual rate of growth in employment in this Sector during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The annual rate of growth in the value of production in small scale sector during 1993-94 has been worked out as 7.1 percent. The growth rate for the first six month of current financial year has not been worked out.

(b) Any recent study to find out the annual rate of growth in the capital investment in the Sector during 1993-94 and first two quarters of the current financial year has not been conducted.

(c) The annual rate of growth of employment in small scale industrial sector during 1993-94 has been estimated as 4 percent.

Production of newsprint

1419. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that public/Joint sector mills manufacturing newsprint have either stopped or reduced production of newsprint causing difficulties to users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to contemplate steps to boost production of newsprint; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Amongst the four major public/joint sector Newsprint Mills, M/s. NEPA Ltd. has reported that during the period April to September, 1994, they were forced to reduce production of newsprint due to high inventory of unsold newsprint stock resulting from lack of orders from newspaper establishments. M/s. Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Ltd. (TNPL) has reported that they have reduced their production of newsprint based on the orders received and diverted their production to writing & printing paper. No other public/joint sector newsprint mills has either stopped or reduced production of newsprint.

(c) and (d) Government have taken following steps to increase the indigenous production of newsprint:

(i) A capacity of 6.90 lakh tonnes by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent has been sanctioned.

(ii) Under the New Industrial Policy, Newsprint units based on minimum 75 per cent plup derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing, subject to locational policy. As a result of this 30 IEMs for a total capacity of about 15.77 lakh tonnes have been filed by the intending entrepreneurs for the manufacture of newsprint.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished. News print is exempted from excise duty.

(iv) With a view to encourage the indigenous availability of newsprint such paper mills who are producing paper conforming to specifications laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards for newsprint and if their paper is being used by newspapers and its quality is found satisfactory by them, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962. At present there are 21 newsprint mills in the country with an annual installed capacity of about 5.40 lakh tonnes

which have already been included in Scheduled I.

Winding up sick PSUs by BIFR

1420. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BIFR has recommended the winding up of sick PSUs in the country;

(b) if so, the details of those PSUs to which BIFR has recommended for winding up during the last 6 months;

(c) whether the viability schemes of such PSUs have been prepared;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to take steps to have the PSUs from closure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) have recommended to the concerned High Court for closure of National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd., British India Corpn. Ltd. and Elgin Mills Company Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The revival proposal prepared by operating agency in the case of National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd. was considered by Govt. and the proposal was not found viable. Hence BIFR recommended for its closure. In the case of Elgin Mills Company Ltd. the viability proposal submitted by the company was not found feasible by BIFR and no viable purposal was made in the case of British India Corpn. Ltd.

Crisis faced by small and cottage industries

1421. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale and cottage industries are facing crisis under the impart of the New Economic Policy of Government;

(b) if so, the nature of the crisis; and

(c) the steps taken to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-release of funds for growth Centre

1422. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Government are not releasing the share capital fully to Growth Centres although the projects were approved in July, 1992 for 3 Growth Centres of Gujarat and the reasons for which the Industrial Finance Corporation Ltd. has not released the share capital to Growth Centres in Gujarat though the project appraisal was done by them and approved as viable; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not released their respective amounts of share capital as per time schedule for Growth Centres and whether it is possible to increase the share capital amounts for each growth centre by Government and IFCIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The release of funds to gro-